

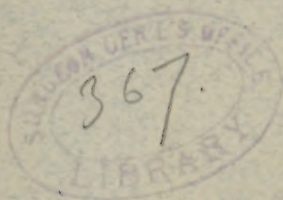
Guernsey, (H. N.)

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BY

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PHILADELPHIA.





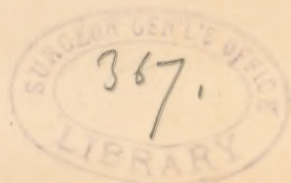
# OVARIAN TUMORS.

BY HENRY N. GUERNSEY, M.D. OF PHILADELPHIA.

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VERY much has been written on the subject of Ovarian Tumors. Nearly all writers, with scarcely an exception, describe at length their varieties, consistency, appearance, position, etc., as though they were a something separate from the living organism and vital principle which animates them, as something hidden internally and material, however subtle their nature may be supposed. The symptoms that accompany each variety are delineated with the accuracy of a portrait painter, and drawn as though they were stereotyped. On the contrary, no two cases have ever been known to exist where the symptoms were identical, nor is it possible that any two cases will ever be found to present more than a similarity. The truth of the matter may be stated as follows:

All ovarian tumors are of dynamic origin. So long as health reigns supreme there can be no diseased condition. Disease only exists on a departure, however slight, from the normal state of the vital force, which causes the patient to feel slightly indisposed. This condition of affairs may continue for months, or years, and no ovarian tumor yet appear, not the slightest vestige of one. At length this increasing morbid influence exhibits a slight derangement in either of the ovaries, and by degrees the development of an ovarian tumor makes its appearance. At first so small as to be only recognised by a powerful microscope, later the naked eye can detect the result of the morbid influence, and the then small tumor, still augmenting, may gain in the aggregate the weight of one hundred pounds. In fact, the size and weight are only limited by the endurance of the sufferer.



This is the real pathology of all tumors and other diseased conditions. It is the *living* pathology *only* that concerns the physician as a healer. The material is *per se* of no account beyond its symptomatic value. If it is true, and *true it certainly is*, that an abnormal state of the vital force has been the contributor to all this growth, why, if the doctrine of Homœopathy be true, should we not be able to remove anomalous force and to establish in lieu thereof a health-producing dynamic power? Why, then, do our surgeons, especially our homœopathic surgeons, so eagerly resort to the knife in these cases? Why do they not take heed to Samuel Hahnemann in the treatment of the sick?

Dr. John Hunter, one of the *astra lumina* in the galaxy of surgeons, even in his day held the operative part of surgery in the lowest estimation. "To perform an operation," said he, "is to mutilate a patient whom we are unable to cure; it should, therefore, be considered as an acknowledgement of the imperfection of our art." He avowed himself outmastered, completely conquered, by the progress of the disease in question. He felt humiliated when obliged to resort to the knife in cases that he felt ought to be cured by medication only.

Many and many a time have I heard the venerable Valentine Mott deplore the necessity of a surgical operation. He would raise a pitying eye to his numerous class of students, and say: "Gentlemen, we are again mastered, repulsed, by the unsubdued progress of this disease. Again, we are compelled to resort to the *opprobrium medicorum*. The art of surgery is nothing more. I am sorry, very sorry, that this person could not have been cured and thus saved the necessity of this degradation to the healing art."

If our allopathic brethren take a stand of this kind should we not expect more of Homœopathy? Yet the truth really is, that most of our homœopathic surgeons resort to the knife as the very first remedy, declaring it to be the only remedy, and that it should be resorted to at once. Gentlemen, this is a *mistake*, and shows great mental weakness and want of knowledge of the fundamental principles of our art. It shows a disposition to succumb to the inroads of diseased conditions, to retreat from the enemy, and to sink into mere routine.

It may be said that I do not encourage the art of surgery. Nothing can be further from the truth. I encourage it in the proper way. Which of the two is the more noble—the art of *healing*, or the art of *relieving* by marring the human sys-

tem? Cutting is simply palliative; it does not cure. The scalpel can never, no, never, remove from the system that dynamic force which brings to view the product of disease. The surgical art should be held in abeyance, faithfully and religiously, as a *dernier resort*. I am well aware, and so is the surgeon, that a bold and skillful operation, successfully performed, carries with it the *eclat* of admiration and applause of the populace, but to every thoughtful mind, how much more admired and lauded is a thorough cure of the same malady by medicine, the only legitimate and satisfactory mode.

That ovarian tumors are curable by medicines we have sufficient proof from records made by physicians occupying the highest rank in the profession.

When we use our *Materia Medica* in complete accordance with the rules so ably advanced and expounded in Hahnemann's *Organon* and his *Chronic Diseases*, we obtain the most brilliant success in treating this formidable complaint. Let us cite a few examples of undoubted authority, showing that ovarian tumors are curable:

In *Raue's Annual Record* of Homœopathic Literature, 1870, p. 70, we find the first case on record, so far as I know, and it was a cure effected by myself nearly twenty years ago. The case came into my hands after it was pronounced by several of our best allopathic physicians and surgeons to be a well developed instance of ovarian dropsy which nothing but the knife would relieve. The fear of so formidable an operation induced her to seek my aid. The tumor was so large as to fill the entire abdominal cavity, rendering stooping impossible. There was also an anasarca condition of the cellular tissues throughout the whole body. The characteristic symptoms indicating the remedy were *pains like bee stings* in the ovarian cyst, very scanty urine and *no* thirst. By administering *Apis mel.* in strict conformity with our Law of Cure, in the course of ten months she was restored to perfect health. A few months after the cure she was found to be pregnant, and in due time gave birth to a healthy child. This woman and her husband and child are still living in this city, and can be seen by any person desiring to do so by calling on me for their address.

In the same *Annual Record*, p. 244, we find another case by T. Black, M.D. This, an ovarian cystic tumor, was cured in six months time by Bromide of Potassium. Symptoms not recorded. He also reports another case cured by an allo-

pathic physician and by the same remedy in the same course of time.

Another case, found on same page, was nearly cured with *Rhododendron*, but the patient, from some unknown cause, discontinued treatment.

On page 245, same record, our lamented friend, C. Dunham, M.D., records a case. This was of some years standing, and pronounced by several of undoubted authority to be an ovarian tumor and incurable. It was firm and elastic and very painful; the patient could not stand erect nor walk; when the paroxysms of pain came on the only mode of partial relief was by bending forward almost double. From these symptoms Dr. Dunham prescribed *Colocynthis*<sup>20</sup>, to be taken at every paroxysm of pain, and repeated every hour till relieved. The paroxysms gradually diminished in frequency and severity till she had recovered sufficiently to walk a long distance. She went to Europe, carrying with her a phial of *Coloc.*<sup>20</sup>, which she continued to take as occasion required. After five years she reported herself to Dr. Dunham, in New York, when no trace of the tumor could be found.

In the same *Record*, 1871, p. 145, a case is reported by Dr. Payr. The left ovary was affected. *Bryonia* was first prescribed, then *Apis* finished the cure. No symptoms given.

Another case is recorded, on same page, by Dr. Bojanus. The remedy first administered was *Bellad.*, then *Bellad.* and *Natrum Sulph.*, in alternation; finally, *Kali carb.* completed the cure.

Dr. Chauvet, of Paris, reports a case on same page, of an ovarian cyst, in a woman of the laboring class, æt. 22, cured by *Rhus*.

A remarkable case is reported, on the same page, by William Gallupe, M.D., Bangor, Maine, that he cured with *Podoph. pet.*<sup>20</sup>. The tumor appeared first on the left side, and was as large as a ten quart pan, filling pretty nearly the entire abdominal cavity. After this had disappeared, some years later, another tumor was developed on the right side. This was also completely cured by the use of *Podoph. pet.*<sup>20</sup>.

The next case is by Dr. Richard Hughes, of London, found in the *British Journal of Homœopathy*, 1872, p. 793. He states it to be an *undoubted* case of ovarian dropsy, and it was cured by *Kali bromidum*. Afterwards the abdomen

seemed filled with fluid, but it was entirely removed by *Apocynum*, *Ars.*, and *Apis*.

In *Raue's Annual Record*, 1872, p. 173, a case is recorded by Dr. P. H. Hale. An ovarian tumor as large as the head of a new-born child was cured in several weeks by an infusion of ten or twelve bees, a tablespoonful every four hours.

On page 147, *Raue's Annual Record*, 1873, a case is reported by Charles Sumner, M.D., of New York. His case was so diagnosed by an allopathic physician, and it was also his honest conviction. It was the size of a quart bowl. He continued the use of *Calc. carb.*<sup>5m</sup> for fifteen months, when there was not a trace of the tumor remaining.

Professor A. E. Small has reported two cases on p. 173, of the same *Record*. One was very much benefited by *Apis*, the other satisfactorily treated by *Carbo an.*

In *North American Journal of Homœopathy*, Vol. XXI, p. 553, is a case reported by my friend, A. M. Piersons, M.D., of New York. The tumor was seven inches in length, five inches in breadth, and three inches thick, as nearly as he could estimate. Cured by *Apis mel.*<sup>40m</sup>

A cure by Dr. Gilchrist is recorded on the same page. *Coloc.*<sup>1m</sup> was first administered; a month later, *Coloc.*<sup>cm</sup>, and in a few months the patient was perfectly well.

Dr. Dudgeon, England, reports a case of ovarian tumor cured by *Graphites*<sup>12m</sup>, in *British Journal of Homœopathy*, 1873, p. 187.

Mercy B. Jackson, of Boston, reports a case in the *North American Journal of Homœopathy*, Vol. XXII, p. 93, in which the general health improved under *Silicea*, and the tumor diminished under *Platinum*.

A case reported by Dr. Praul, on the same page, was very much benefited, if not entirely cured, by *Kreosote*.

Nearly two years ago a lady came to me from the far West, with an ovarian tumor of immense size. The abdomen was so distended that stooping was impossible. She was pronounced by some of the best surgeons and physicians in the West to have ovarian dropsy, and that nothing but the knife would be of service. She came to Philadelphia with the hope of finding better encouragement from our best medical men here, but all pronounced the same verdict as those in the West, until she consulted me. Finding considerable encouragement from my view of the case, she placed herself under my care. She had

not much pain, but was restless at night; was worse after midnight; very weak; a little exertion fatigued her greatly. All her symptoms indicated *Arsenicum*, which I gave her in the 40<sup>m</sup> potency. Improvement was soon manifest, and in this manner: she slept better, was not so restless at night, and felt a little stronger. General improvement continued for several weeks, when she became satisfied that her size was diminishing. This good effect continued for ten months, when she returned home apparently quite well. Until this summer she has enjoyed good health, but a few weeks since (Aug. 15, 1878) she wrote me that her size is again increasing, and she fears a return of the tumor. She is again under treatment, with every hope of perfect success.

Aug. 15th, 1878. I have just discharged a cured case of ovarian dropsy that I commenced treating on July 28, 1877. The tumor was on the left side, as large as a two-quart measure, producing a constant ache, and sensation as if a ball were lying there. She slept with her arms stretched over her head; is of a leucophlegmatic temperament; menses profuse and too often; her feet felt as if cold, *damp* stockings were on them. Calc. carb.<sup>85m</sup> did her great service for several months. Finally her symptoms changed completely; *Sepia*<sup>55m</sup>, was given, and it has made the cure complete.

Another marked case comes to my mind, which I cured several years ago. The tumor was as large as the head of a new-born child, at full term, situated in the right ovarian region, and was caused by falling over a wash-tub. There was pain at every menstrual period, terribly forcing and bearing down, as though everything would issue at the vulva. This case was cured perfectly and completely after six months, by *Bellad.*, given at every menstrual period.

No doubt I could relate the cure of many other cases of tumor, ovarian as well as others, if I had time for research. Enough, however, has been adduced to prove to any reasonable person that ovarian tumors are curable, and it ought to incite every one who desires to improve the healing art, to make a determined effort in this new departure, before having recourse to the knife. I will relate one other case, and then bring this paper to a close.

On June 15th, 1877, a lady called on me from New Orleans, La. Two years previous she came to Philadelphia and was operated upon by one of our most skillful surgeons, for the purpose of removing an ovarian tumor. The surgeon found

the tumor so firmly adherent that he was compelled to desist. The wound was closed, she recovered from the operation, and returned to New Orleans. She then placed herself under my care, with a letter from her physician there, which reads as follows :

DEAR MADAM : \* \* \* \* I have given you one dose of *Sepia*, in 1876, the balance of the time you were under the influence of *Apis*<sup>30</sup>. This year I have given you *Arsen.*, and lastly, for striking symptoms, *Nux vom.* Wishing you a pleasant journey, &c."

Whilst in New Orleans, since the operation for removal, paracentesis was performed several times, and large quantities of water drawn off. Present symptoms are, almost constant pains in the abdomen, of a jerking-stitching nature, so severe as to make her cry out. Cannot lie on either side; she feels worse after one o'clock at night, and cannot sleep after that hour. A drawing sore pain running from left hypochondrium to the back; very much flatulence, passes quantities of flatus upwards and downwards, which affords much relief. Cannot walk erect, but stooping and drawn to one side. I at once gave her *Kali carb*<sup>em</sup>. She soon began to improve; her pains greatly diminished, and the flatus gradually ceased. Her general health continued to improve; after a while the pain entirely left her, her size began to diminish, she could walk perfectly erect, and invariably slept well at night. She now desired to return to her home in New Orleans. I protested, and used every conceivable argument to induce her to remain under my immediate care a few months longer, and so did all her friends. But she feared our approaching winter (this was the latter part of October). She felt so well and so exuberant. She was sure she would get entirely well of her tumor, if I would continue to send her medicine, and home she went. For a while she continued to improve, but she got worse again, and finally rapidly worse, and passed into the other world.

It is quite necessary that these cases remain under the best medical skill until the tumor has entirely disappeared. Neither is it always sufficient to see a patient once or twice, in order to get a clear understanding of the case; it often requires a vast amount of study to find the proper remedy, and then a change of remedy may be necessary, and the patient may

require a masterly hand to manage her difficult points successfully.

It will be seen from this paper that a great many undoubted cases of ovarian tumors have been cured, and by a diversity of remedies. The number to choose from is unlimited. The whole *materia medica* is to be consulted, and the remedy to be determined by strict individualization. The Law of Cure, as unfolded and explained in Samuel Hahnemann's *Organon of the healing art*, and in his *Chronic Diseases*, *must be strictly enforced*, in order to obtain the *best* results.

And now, gentlemen, in conclusion: Each of us here present will, sooner or later, meet in our practice cases of ovarian tumor. Do not, as you value human life—as you value the well being of your patient and of humanity in general—as you value the dignity of the art of healing—fly at once to the barbarous knife. Examine the case carefully; inquire diligently into all the details; find out all the symptoms, mental, subjective and objective, and all their modalities, remembering that, in the language of Hahnemann, “for the physician, the totality of the symptoms alone constitutes the disease,” and that, “to cure diseases, it is merely requisite to remove the entire symptoms, duly regarding at the same time the fundamental cause and other circumstances.” The tumor is not the *cause*, it is only an effect.

Then, having made a complete picture of the case, search patiently for the most similar remedy, apply it as above directed and await the result. If you have been true to the above precepts, your labors will be rewarded, and your efforts crowned with a success more to be admired and more useful to the patient, to the profession, and to the community at large, than any number of surgical operations for a similar malady.



